Financial Assistance to Orissa for Cyclone Relief

310. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of financial assistance sanctioned and disbursed by the Centre to Orissa under various heads for relief and rehabilitation of cyclone affected people in the state;

(b) whether Orissa Government has demanded to treat the entire amount as grant and not as a loan or an advance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):(a) to (c) Government of Orissa, in the first instance, had demanded Rs. 2500 crore as Central assistance to under take relief and restoration measures and requested to treat the entire amount as grant and not as loan or advance. The Union Government has already released ad-hoc assistance of Rs. 200 crore from National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) and Rs. 200 crore as advance plan assistance, to the Government of Orissa, in the wake of Super Cyclone. Further ad-hoc assistance of Rs.300 crore has been announced, Relief and restoration measures have been taken up on a national scale. An advance plan assistance of Rs. 250 crore was also sanctioned to Orissa for the cyclone of 17-18th October, 1999.

Criteria for opening of DMS Depot

311. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the policy and the criteria framed by Government for opening of DMS depot in New Delhi/Delhi;

(b) The number of such depots that are functioning in 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' sectors of Vasant Kunj and for about twenty societies' houses in Indra Prasth Extension in East Delhi;

(c) whether Government propose to extend such facilities to those residents of Delhi/New Delhi where such facility does not exist; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Availability of milk for supply in DMS is the pre-condition for opening of new milk depots. Other criteria for opening of the depots are as follows:

(i) The proposed site should be approved by Local Government bodies such as NDMC, MCD & DDA.

(ii) The site should be approachable easily by the DMS milk van to facilitate easy loading/unloading of milk.

(iii) The site should be duly approved by the Delhi Traffic Police.

(b) At present 5 depots are functioning in A, B, C & D sectors of Vasant Kunj and there is no depot functioning in I.P. Extension in East Delhi.

(c) and (d) The production capacity of DMS is far below the requirement of milk in Delhi. Within the limited availability of DMS milk, such facility can be extended on the basis of the policy and the criteria mentioned in part (a) of the question.

Attack of new pest on coconut cultivation in Kerala

312. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Central Government that a new type of pest "Mandari" is causing extensive destruction to coconut cultivation in Kerala; and

(b) the steps the Union Government intends to take to help the Government of Kerala to control this new pest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. "Mandari" disease is the local name for coconut mite. A large number of coconut palms in Kerala are affected by the mite.

(b) The Union Government have taken following steps to help the Government of Kerala to control this new pest:—

(i) Coconut Development Board has authorised use of an additional amount of Rs. 96.00 lakh to Government of Kerala for crop protection measures against the mite during 1999-2000.

(ii) The coconut Development Board has approved a research Project at a cost of Rs. 3.00 lakh to develop affective bio-control measures.

(iii) The Coconut Development Board has brought out booklets/brochures on mite and are extending assistance for training programmes, the awareness creation campaigns are continuing where the pest incidence is reported to be very high.

(iv) Project Directorate of Bio-logical Control (ICAR) is continuing field and laboratory trials to develop effective biocontrol measures with natural enemies which offer an effective, cheap, eco-friendly and long-lasting solution to the problem. A Steering Committee under the chairmanship of Horticulture Commissioner with the representatives of States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka as well as from the three Agricultural Universities, Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kasargode, Project Directorate of Biological Control and All India Coordinated Project on "Mite" (ICAR) has been formed to review and coordinate the efforts in developing